



## 81 Days of Progress

# INTERIM MAYOR TODD GLORIA

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### City of San Diego

#### WEEKLY UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 12

**Prevailing Wage:** The City Council approved the Prevailing Wage Ordinance on September 10. Prevailing wage is known to result in safer and better monitored work sites; on-time completion; properly trained apprentices; and fewer construction defects, change orders, and cost overruns. Further, by providing appropriate compensation, workers providing a public service do not have to live in poverty. It will go into effect on January 1, 2014.

**Plastic Bag Reduction:** On September 11, the Rules and Economic Development Committee had a long discussion about the development of a Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance. I appreciate Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner bringing this matter forward, and I will be working with her and Environmental Services staff to ensure appropriate outreach occurs before the Committee gets a progress report at its meeting on October 23.

**Bus Passes:** The City is finalizing the contract with San Diego Unified School District so bus passes can start being provided to local high school students as approved in the budget. I spoke with Superintendent Cindy Marten about this, and she understands the City is making a one-time contribution and that the City will be provided with a report on measurable outcomes from this pilot project upon completion.

**Plaza de Panama:** Parking was removed from Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama. I heard from many families, disabled individuals, and elderly about the difficulty they now have accessing some of the nearby institutions. I am working with Park and Recreation staff to provide additional accessible parking spaces in the Alcazar Parking Lot, consistent with the intent of the Central Mesa Precise Plan. Further, the trams promised to assist in the circulation of Park visitors are expected to be operational by mid-October. The previous mayor neglected to consider the need for fuel tanks to run the trams, so those are being completed now. Also, the Cabrillo Bridge will only be closed by Caltrans for its construction project starting January 2, 2014, which is expected to last for about four months. Any future discussion or plans to potentially close the bridge permanently will not occur unless the next mayor chooses to pursue that option.

**Planning in the City of San Diego:** Bill Fulton will continue to lead all planning-related efforts, and I am working on bolstering this division's resources.

**Climate Action Plan:** A public meeting concerning the City's options for a Climate Action Plan is scheduled for Friday, September 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the North Terrace Rooms of the City Concourse. Bill Fulton is appropriately leading this charge.

**Enforcement of City Regulations:** City staff has been directed to consistently apply and enforce our current policies and codes. This means that mayoral permission slips granted to people including the jewelry salesman at the beach have been rescinded.

**Fee Deferrals:** As San Diego continues its climb out of the recession, I have reinstated deferrals of Facilities Benefit Assessment and Development Impact Fees so the fees can be paid upon completion of the project and not before they start. Capital for projects can be difficult to assemble, and I worked with the building industry years ago when I was the Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee to approve these fee deferrals, which proved to be helpful in getting projects off the ground and put the construction industry back to work. They are again in place, and I know our economy will be better for them.

**Land Development Code Updates:** Before I assumed this position, I asked the previous mayor's staff to work on amending our Land Development Code to remove the loophole that allowed the Jack in the Box in North Park to legally be renovated with administrative approval after its permit was denied through the community process. I support the neighborhood's position that the project doesn't comply with the community plan, but all must play by the rules, and change any rules that are unfair. The amendments are being drafted and should be publicly reviewed in the coming months.

**Lobbyists:** The City of San Diego has lacked professional representation in the state and national capitols for almost a year. In that time, sequestration has occurred and impacted the economy, affordable housing legislation has been considered in Sacramento, and San Diego hasn't been at the table. My team is developing requests for proposals (RFP) to secure representation of the City in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C. That process will take time, so I am also pursuing renewed contracts with our previous representatives for this interim period.

**Open Data:** I am working with the Director of Information Technology on how best to move toward greater open data options. I have been impressed by the work started by Council President Pro Tem Lightner and Councilmember Mark Kersey, and am stunned by the positive feedback and input offered by stakeholders. Getting these knowledgeable people together to create a reasonable and effective plan for the City, residents, and local favorite watchdogs is the next step. I expect to have an update by the beginning of October on this.

**Managed Competition:** I am distributing three memos today about modifications to managed competitions for Storm Water Operations and Maintenance, Street and Sidewalk Maintenance, and Landfill Operations.

**Homeless Shelters:** I stated that it's extremely unfortunate that the previous mayor allotted insufficient funds to keep shelters open year round as promised. The lack of adequate funding for homeless programs is another example of the mess left by the previous administration that now must be cleaned up. I am working with City staff and the Housing Commission and will visit both homeless shelters in the coming days to determine a path forward. While I am exploring potential funding solutions, including examination of administrative costs, it's important to recognize the possibility that the shelters will have to close in April. Focusing on finding alternative living arrangements and services for our homeless neighbors in the interim is critical. It remains my objective to end homelessness in Downtown in the next four years with the assistance of the County, nonprofit providers, and business leaders.

**Old Central Library:** I have asked Civic San Diego to look into an RFP process to seek potential reuse options for this facility.

**Medical Marijuana:** The revised ordinance to regulate the location and operation of medical marijuana outlets will be considered by the Community Planners Committee and the Planning Commission before being considered by the City Council. It is my hope that the community served by medical marijuana will collaborate with me and my Council colleagues so that a reasonable ordinance balancing the needs of legitimate patients with the needs of neighborhoods is the result. In the meantime, I have asked staff to re-start enforcement of City codes as they apply to operators of medical marijuana outlets that took advantage of the City's lack of zoning regulations. The City of San Diego will not reward bad behavior, and consistent enforcement of current regulations levels the playing field for legitimate operators.

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